

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,773,889 to Love et al. (“Love”).

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,317,479 to Pai et al. (“Pai”).

Claims 3 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants’ Admitted Prior Art (Figs. 5 and 6 of Applicants’ specification) in view of Love.

Claims 2, 4 and 7-10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the features of respective base claims and intervening claims.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by “Love.” Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by “Pai.” Claims 3 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants’ Admitted Prior Art (Figs. 5 and 6 of Applicants’ specification) in view of Love. Claims 1, 3, 6 and 12 are currently canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering the rejection of these claims moot.

Claims 2, 4 and 7-10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the features of respective base claims and intervening claims. Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for indicating the

allowable subject matter of claims 2, 4 and 7-10. Claims 2, 4, 7 and 8 are currently amended in independent form, and claims 9-10 depend from claim 8.

Claims 5 and 11 are withdrawn from consideration as being non-elected claims. Claims 5 and 11 are currently canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

In as much as all rejected claims have been canceled, all withdrawn claims have been canceled, and all objected claims have been rewritten as suggested by the Examiner, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims (*i.e.* claims 2, 4 and 7-10) are in condition for immediate allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing all pending claims in condition for allowance. Applicants submit that the claim amendments do not raise new issues or necessitate additional search of the art by the Examiner.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite the prosecution.

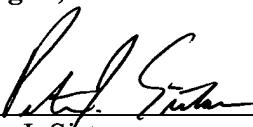
If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully Submitted,

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

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By:


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